



**GLOBAL PARLIAMENTARY CONGRESS
THE FUTURE OF THE WORLD
12–13 May 2023, Vilnius**

OPENING SESSION

Speech by H.E. Mr Gitanas NAUSĖDA

President of the Republic of Lithuania

Esteemed Members of Parliaments,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my pleasure to extend my greetings to you at the Global Parliamentary Congress. This event provides a welcome opportunity to discuss the future of the world, its current challenges and necessary global responses.

By gathering here, in the Lithuanian Seimas, you strengthen parliamentary anticipatory governance and prepare to take decisive initiatives and actions in the future.

Today, with the brutal war of aggression bringing destruction to Europe, we are being reminded that the future of the world hangs on our collective ability to support and guarantee respect for international law. Among other things, it also means respect for borders and commitment to the non-use of force to change them.

We should do everything to preserve the international order based on the UN Charter, which clearly defines aggression as the use force by a state against the sovereignty, territorial integrity, or political independence of another state.

Of utmost importance today is the determination of the entire international community to bring justice based on international law to all those responsible for the crime of aggression against Ukraine. The persons responsible for planning, conducting and committing the crime of aggression against Ukraine must not go unpunished.

As you all know perfectly well, without accountability for international crimes, there is no justice and no chance for a peaceful world order in the nearest future.

I would also like to encourage parliaments and their members to consolidate efforts in strengthening parliamentary democracy and implementing it. We have a common responsibility to fight growing threats to human rights, democracy and the rule of law, to ensure continued freedom, peace, prosperity, and security for Europe. The parliamentary dimension is essential in achieving these goals.

We are looking forward to the upcoming United Nations Summit on the Future, which will take place next year in September. This Summit should support the implementation of current commitments of the UN member states, primarily the UN Sustainable Development Goals, facilitate agreements on solving specific problems and restore trust between UN member states.

The Future Summit is our chance to make serious advances on youth inclusion, global digital agreement, new peace agenda, and reforming the global financial architecture.

I invite the Congress and its participants to actively engage in the implementation of Our Common Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals. May the outcomes and results of today's discussion contribute to "Multilateral solutions for a better tomorrow"!

A video of the speech:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PNq0O_KYIYU&list=PLafTseM15bmGXfMyNS2B41zIF24U8cX6h&index=1